

REMARKS

Claim 1 is currently pending in the instant application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication No. JP 2000-228234 ("JP '234"). Specifically, the Examiner contends that JP '234 discloses a solid polymer electrolyte made by a process wherein a polymer comprising a hydroxyl group and a carboxyl group is reacted with a diisocyanate compound. The Examiner further contends that polymer P-1, as set forth in paragraph [0095] of JP '234, in combination with any of the diisocyanate compounds H-1, H-2, H-3 or H-5, as set forth in paragraph [0101] of JP '234, anticipates the claimed process.

Applicants strenuously, but respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection and the arguments and contentions set forth in support thereof for the following reasons.

To begin with, Applicants' claimed invention is directed to a process for producing a solid polymer electrolyte wherein components (a) and (b) are reacted with each other. Component (a) is an acrylic copolymer which comprises repeating units represented by structural unit I and structural unit II, the latter of which comprises an isocyanate moiety represented by "X". Component (b) is a compound represented by formula III and is a diol (*i.e.*, both Y groups in formula III represent hydroxyl groups).

In contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, JP '234 is directed to gel electrolytes which comprise a product obtained by reacting: (i) a polymer having a hydroxyl group and/or a carboxyl group with (ii) a compound having at least two or more isocyanate groups. Applicants' claimed invention, on the other hand, is directed to a process wherein a diol is reacted with an acrylic copolymer comprising an isocyanate moiety. Nowhere does JP '234 teach the reaction of (a) an acrylic copolymer having an isocyanate-containing structural unit with (b) a diol. Accordingly, JP '234 fails to anticipate Applicants' claimed invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Additionally for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith an English translation of paragraphs [0087] through [0103] of JP '234, upon which the Examiner relies to support the §102(b) rejection addressed above. Also submitted herewith is a Form

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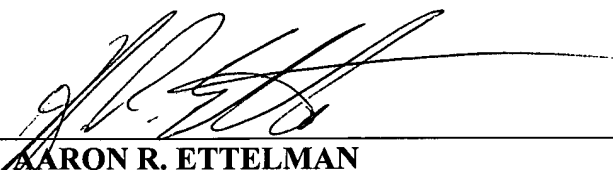
Reply to Office Action of September 30, 2005

PTO/SB/08A reflecting submission of the partial translation of the JP '234 reference which is already of record in this application.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claim1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art of record and known to Applicants. Reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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December 22, 2005 By: 
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Enclosures – Form PTO/SB/08A w/copy of Japanese Patent Publication No. JP 2000-228234 and English translation of paragraphs [0087] through [0103]